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Large-Scale War

Large-scale war refers to armed conflicts that involve multiple nations or regions and have a significant impact on global security and stability. These wars often entail the deployment of massive military forces, including ground troops, naval vessels, and air power, and can result in widespread destruction, loss of life, and long-lasting consequences. The negative effects of large-scale war are manifold and can have far-reaching implications for the global community.

Large-scale wars cause immense human suffering and loss of life. Soldiers and civilians alike are exposed to the horrors of war, leading to physical injuries, psychological trauma, displacement, and death. The scale of casualties can be staggering, resulting in a profound humanitarian crisis.

Large-scale wars wreak havoc on economies. The costs of maintaining military forces, procuring weapons, and repairing infrastructure damaged during the conflict drain national resources. Additionally, the disruption of trade routes, destruction of vital industries, and displacement of populations contribute to a severe economic downturn.

Wars often result in extensive environmental damage. Bombings, artillery shelling, and the use of chemical weapons can lead to the destruction of ecosystems, contamination of water sources, and pollution of the air. The long-term consequences of such environmental destruction can have a lasting impact on the planet and its inhabitants.

Large-scale wars force millions of people to flee their homes, seeking safety in neighboring countries or even across continents. The influx of refugees strains resources and infrastructure in host nations, leading to overcrowded refugee camps, inadequate healthcare, and social unrest. This displacement also fuels ethnic tensions and exacerbates social divisions.

Large-scale wars often result in political instability and regime change in affected countries. The collapse of governments and the rise of power vacuums create opportunities for extremist groups, terrorists, and warlords to seize control, leading to prolonged conflicts and regional instability.

Global Risks: Large-scale wars have several global risks that can shape the future geopolitical landscape.

a. **Escalation and Spread of Conflict:** Wars have the potential to escalate beyond their initial theater and draw in other nations through alliances or proxy involvement. This can trigger a chain reaction, leading to a broader conflict with potentially catastrophic consequences.

b. **Nuclear Weapons and WMD Proliferation:** Large-scale wars involving nuclear-armed nations pose the risk of nuclear weapons being deployed, leading to mass destruction and loss of life. The use of other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), such as chemical or biological agents, also poses grave risks to global security if they fall into the wrong hands.

c. **Economic Recession and Global Trade Disruption:** Large-scale wars disrupt global trade and economic relations, leading to recession and economic instability. The interconnectedness of economies means that a conflict in one region can have ripple effects worldwide, impacting markets, investments, and livelihoods.

d. **Humanitarian Crisis and Global Migration:** The displacement caused by large-scale wars can result in a massive humanitarian crisis and trigger large-scale migration. This places additional burdens on countries receiving refugees, strains international humanitarian aid efforts, and fuels political tensions between nations.

e. Geopolitical Realignment: Large-scale wars can reshape the geopolitical landscape, leading to shifts in alliances, power dynamics, and regional influence. This can result in increased competition, mistrust, and potential conflicts in the post-war era.

Large-scale wars often involve heavy bombardment and deliberate targeting of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power plants, hospitals, and schools. This destruction hampers the ability to provide essential services to the affected population, impedes post-war recovery efforts, and prolongs the suffering of civilians.

The aftermath of large-scale wars can have long-lasting socioeconomic consequences. The destruction of industries and disruption of agriculture lead to food shortages, economic instability, and high unemployment rates. Rebuilding shattered economies and restoring a functioning society can take years or even decades, further exacerbating poverty and inequality.

The psychological impact of large-scale wars is profound. Combatants and civilians exposed to the horrors of war often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders. The long-term effects of trauma can hinder individuals' ability to reintegrate into society, perpetuating cycles of violence and instability. Large-scale wars have the potential to destabilize entire regions. The influx of weapons, armed groups, and extremist ideologies can spill across borders, fueling conflicts in neighboring countries and undermining regional security. This can lead to a broader regional crisis, with implications for stability, governance, and the proliferation of terrorism.

During large-scale wars, human rights violations are widespread. These include extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual violence, forced displacement, and the recruitment of child soldiers. The breakdown of institutions and the rule of law allows for impunity and the erosion of fundamental rights, leaving populations vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Large-scale wars disrupt healthcare systems and hinder access to essential medical services, resulting in increased mortality rates and the spread of diseases. The destruction of sanitation infrastructure and disruption of water supplies contribute to unsanitary conditions, leading to the outbreak of epidemics and further endangering vulnerable populations.

Large-scale wars involve the deployment of advanced weaponry, including drones, missiles, and cyber capabilities. The use of technology in warfare introduces additional risks, such as accidental escalation, cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, and the potential for weapons systems to fall into unauthorized hands or be used maliciously by non-state actors. Large-scale wars may disrupt the production and transportation of vital energy resources, such as oil and gas. This can lead to energy shortages, price volatility, and increased competition for scarce resources, potentially triggering conflicts over control of strategic assets and exacerbating geopolitical tensions.

Large-scale wars can undermine international norms and institutions. Respect for international humanitarian law, human rights, and diplomatic channels can erode as parties to the conflict prioritize military objectives over civilian protection and peaceful resolution. The erosion of these norms weakens the global rules-based order and can impede efforts to prevent or mitigate future conflicts. In an increasingly interconnected world, large-scale wars have ripple effects that extend beyond the immediate conflict zones. These effects include the displacement of refugees, regional instability, economic downturns, and heightened security concerns. The global community is impacted socially, economically, and politically, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to prevent and address large-scale conflicts.

While large-scale wars can have various causes, governments themselves often play a significant role as the primary cause. Governments are responsible for safeguarding the national security

and strategic interests of their respective countries. In pursuit of these objectives, governments may resort to military force or aggressive actions to protect or expand their territories, access vital resources, or secure geopolitical advantages. Conflicting national security interests can escalate tensions and lead to large-scale wars.

Political Ambitions and Power Consolidation: Governments driven by political ambitions and power consolidation may engage in aggressive actions to assert dominance and control over territories or populations. Leaders seeking to consolidate their power or maintain their grip on authority may resort to military force to suppress internal dissent or to divert attention from domestic challenges. Governments adhering to different ideologies or religious beliefs may perceive each other as threats, leading to conflicts driven by ideological or religious differences. These differences can be exacerbated when governments prioritize their own beliefs and interests over peaceful coexistence and diplomacy.

Governments that exploit ethnic or nationalistic sentiments for political gain can inadvertently contribute to large-scale wars. By manipulating or exacerbating existing ethnic or nationalistic tensions, governments can stoke conflict and create divisions that may escalate into armed conflicts. Governments bear the responsibility of engaging in diplomatic negotiations and seeking peaceful resolutions to conflicts. However, when governments fail to effectively engage in dialogue, diplomacy, and compromise, tensions can escalate, leading to large-scale wars. Intransigence, unwillingness to find common ground, or the absence of sincere efforts to resolve disputes peacefully can contribute to the outbreak of armed conflicts.

Governments engaging in arms races and massive military buildups can create an environment conducive to large-scale wars. The pursuit of military superiority, the acquisition of advanced weaponry, and the development of robust military capabilities can trigger security dilemmas, heightening the risk of conflict and escalating tensions among nations.

Governments' failure to foster effective international cooperation and multilateral institutions can contribute to large-scale wars. When governments prioritize narrow self-interests over collective security and global cooperation, it can undermine diplomatic efforts, impede conflict resolution mechanisms, and erode the trust necessary to prevent armed conflicts. Governments, driven by flawed intelligence or misinterpretation of the intentions and actions of other nations, may make miscalculations that lead to armed conflicts. These misjudgments can arise from a lack of transparency, miscommunication, or a failure to accurately assess the consequences of military actions, inadvertently escalating conflicts to a large-scale level.

Governments' failure to address historical grievances and unresolved conflicts can perpetuate a cycle of violence, creating conditions conducive to large-scale wars. When governments neglect to address the root causes of past conflicts, they risk reigniting hostilities and triggering a new round of armed confrontations. Governments engaging in fierce economic and resource competition may resort to military force to secure access to vital resources, such as oil, water, or strategic minerals. Economic rivalries and competition over limited resources can escalate into armed conflicts, especially when diplomatic channels and negotiations fail to resolve disputes peacefully.

The role of governments and policies in the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars is significant and multifaceted: Governments shape foreign policy and diplomatic relations, which play a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating the risk of large-scale wars. Diplomatic strategies, such as engagement, dialogue, and negotiation, can help resolve conflicts peacefully and prevent their escalation. Conversely, aggressive or confrontational foreign policies, such as territorial expansionism or coercive diplomacy, increase the likelihood of armed conflicts.

Governments' decisions regarding arms control, military spending, and military doctrines directly impact the risk of large-scale wars. Arms races, military buildups, and the development of advanced weapons systems can create an atmosphere of heightened tensions and increase the likelihood of conflicts. Governments that prioritize militarization over diplomatic solutions contribute to the risk of large-scale wars.

Governments formulate national security strategies to protect their countries from external threats. However, when national security strategies prioritize military solutions and neglect diplomacy and conflict prevention, the risk of large-scale wars escalates. Governments that rely solely on military approaches without considering non-military means of conflict resolution contribute to the emergence of this risk.

Economic policies and resource competition can be underlying drivers of large-scale wars. Governments that prioritize economic growth at all costs, engage in unfair trade practices, or aggressively compete for limited resources can fuel tensions and trigger conflicts. Policies that exacerbate economic inequality or create conditions of resource scarcity increase the likelihood of armed confrontations. Governments that promote nationalist or populist ideologies can contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. Nationalistic rhetoric, xenophobia, and the scapegoating of other nations or ethnic groups can create an environment of hostility and increase the likelihood of conflicts. Governments that exploit nationalist sentiments for political gain may divert attention from domestic issues and rally support behind aggressive foreign policies.

Governments that disregard human rights, suppress freedom of expression, and engage in repressive governance practices can foster social unrest and fuel conflicts. Violations of human rights, such as discrimination, persecution, or marginalization, can lead to grievances and societal divisions that may escalate into large-scale wars.

Governments that fail to address these issues and foster inclusive societies contribute to the emergence of the risk.

Governments that fail to address the root causes of conflicts, such as historical grievances, territorial disputes, or ethnic tensions, increase the risk of large-scale wars. Neglecting to engage in meaningful dialogue, implement reconciliation processes, or undertake political and social reforms perpetuates underlying tensions and can lead to the eruption of armed conflicts. Governments' failure to foster international cooperation and uphold multilateral institutions undermines the collective efforts to prevent large-scale wars. When governments prioritize narrow self-interests over global security and cooperation, it weakens the effectiveness of international organizations, diminishes trust between nations, and reduces the capacity to address conflicts diplomatically.

Governments' mismanagement of crisis situations can escalate tensions and increase the risk of large-scale wars. Inadequate crisis response, ineffective conflict resolution mechanisms, or the failure to de-escalate conflicts in their early stages can allow tensions to spiral out of control, resulting in armed confrontations. Governments that neglect conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. Insufficient investment in conflict prevention mechanisms, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction can perpetuate cycles of violence and instability, making the recurrence of large-scale wars more likely.

Governments' pursuit of regional dominance and influence can contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. As governments seek to expand their sphere of influence, they may engage in proxy wars, support insurgencies, or intervene militarily in neighboring countries. These actions can escalate regional tensions and trigger broader conflicts involving multiple nations. Governments that neglect socioeconomic disparities and inequalities within their own societies can contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. Economic marginalization, lack of access to resources,

and social injustices can lead to social unrest and conflict. Governments that fail to address these disparities and implement inclusive policies may face internal conflicts that can escalate into larger-scale wars.

Governments that pursue aggressive nationalistic or expansionist policies can significantly heighten the risk of large-scale wars. When governments prioritize territorial expansion or assert dominance over other nations, they may provoke conflicts and territorial disputes. Aggressive actions like annexations or border disputes can spark armed confrontations and escalate into broader wars.

Governments that disregard international law and norms contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. Violations of sovereignty, territorial integrity, or human rights can trigger conflicts and undermine the stability of the international system. Governments that act unilaterally and ignore international agreements increase the likelihood of armed confrontations. Governments' pursuit of nuclear weapons and the proliferation of these weapons of mass destruction can significantly escalate the risk of large-scale wars. The possession of nuclear weapons creates a climate of fear, heightens tensions between nations, and increases the potential for catastrophic outcomes in case of conflict escalation. Governments that prioritize nuclear proliferation over disarmament efforts contribute to the risk of large-scale wars.

Governments' involvement in cyber warfare and information manipulation can contribute to the risk of large-scale wars in the digital age. Governments may engage in offensive cyber operations, such as hacking or disrupting critical infrastructure, which can escalate tensions and trigger retaliatory actions. Additionally, governments that spread disinformation or engage in propaganda campaigns can manipulate public opinion and fuel conflicts. Governments that neglect to address climate change and environmental issues can indirectly contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars. Environmental degradation, resource

scarcity, and climate-induced migration can exacerbate existing conflicts and create new sources of tension. Governments that fail to prioritize sustainable development and climate action may face conflicts over dwindling resources or displacement of populations.

Governments that fail to hold individuals accountable for war crimes and human rights abuses contribute to the risk of large-scale wars. Impunity for atrocities undermines the rule of law, perpetuates cycles of violence, and erodes trust in institutions. Governments that do not prioritize justice and accountability increase the likelihood of revenge-seeking and a cycle of retaliation that can escalate conflicts.

Governments' geopolitical rivalries and the formation of alliances can heighten the risk of large-scale wars. Power struggles between major powers, competition for geopolitical influence, and the formation of military alliances create a complex web of relationships that can escalate conflicts. Governments that engage in aggressive posturing or form alliances based on confrontational policies contribute to the emergence of the risk. Governments that stifle public participation, suppress dissent, or undermine democratic processes contribute to the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars.

When governments disregard the voices and aspirations of their citizens, it can lead to social unrest and conflicts. Inclusive governance, respect for human rights, and meaningful participation of citizens in decision-making processes are crucial in reducing the risk of large-scale wars.

To mitigate the risk of large-scale wars, governments must prioritize diplomacy, conflict prevention, and the pursuit of peaceful solutions. This requires fostering international cooperation, addressing root causes of conflicts, promoting human rights and inclusive governance, and investing in sustainable development and peacebuilding efforts.

The role of governments and policies in the emergence of the risk of large-scale wars is complex and interconnected. Responsible governance, diplomacy, conflict prevention, and adherence to international norms and agreements are essential in mitigating this risk and fostering a more peaceful and stable world.

The United Nations (UN) and affiliated non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play crucial roles in identifying and preventing large-scale wars. The UN, through its various agencies and specialized bodies such as the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), monitors global conflicts and provides early warning of potential large-scale wars. They analyze political, social, and economic indicators to identify situations that could escalate into armed conflicts. NGOs affiliated with the UN also contribute to conflict monitoring by conducting independent research and analysis.

The UN plays a vital role in conflict mediation and diplomacy. The UN Security Council, through its mandate to maintain international peace and security, can authorize peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, and engage in diplomatic efforts to prevent large-scale wars. The UN's Department of Political Affairs (DPA) facilitates diplomatic negotiations and supports peace processes. NGOs affiliated with the UN, such as the International Crisis Group and the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, also contribute to mediation efforts by providing expertise, facilitating dialogue, and promoting peacebuilding initiatives.

The UN deploys peacekeeping missions to conflict-affected regions to help maintain peace and stability. Peacekeepers monitor ceasefires, facilitate negotiations, protect civilians, and support the implementation of peace agreements. These operations play a critical role in preventing the escalation of conflicts into large-scale wars. NGOs affiliated with the UN often work alongside peacekeeping missions, providing humanitarian assistance, promoting human

rights, and supporting local communities in post-conflict reconstruction.

The UN and its affiliated NGOs provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by conflicts. They deliver essential services such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education to vulnerable communities. By addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as poverty, inequality, and displacement, they contribute to conflict prevention and resolution. NGOs affiliated with the UN, such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme, have extensive experience and expertise in delivering humanitarian aid in conflict zones.

The UN and affiliated NGOs monitor and report on human rights violations in conflict-affected areas. They document abuses, advocate for justice, and hold perpetrators accountable. By shining a light on human rights abuses, they contribute to conflict prevention and help create conditions for peaceful resolution. NGOs affiliated with the UN, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, play a crucial role in monitoring and advocating for human rights in conflict situations.

The UN promotes disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control efforts to prevent the escalation of conflicts into large-scale wars. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works to reduce the availability and use of weapons, including nuclear, chemical, and conventional arms. NGOs affiliated with the UN, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the Arms Control Association, advocate for disarmament and non-proliferation measures.

The UN's sustainable development agenda, encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aims to address the root causes of conflicts and promote long-term peacebuilding. By addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges, the UN and affiliated NGOs contribute to conflict prevention. Sustainable development initiatives, such as poverty reduction, gender equality,

and inclusive governance, help build resilient societies and reduce the risk of large-scale wars.

The UN and affiliated NGOs play a crucial role in raising public awareness about the risks and consequences of large-scale wars. Through campaigns, advocacy, and education programs, they promote a culture of peace, tolerance, and dialogue. By mobilizing civil society, they encourage active engagement in conflict prevention efforts and empower individuals and communities to contribute to peacebuilding.

The UN and affiliated NGOs participate in policy development and norm-setting processes related to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. They contribute expertise, research, and recommendations to shape international frameworks and agreements. Through their engagement with governments, they advocate for the adoption of policies and practices that prioritize peaceful resolution of conflicts and the prevention of large-scale wars.

The UN and affiliated NGOs provide capacity-building support and training to governments, civil society organizations, and local communities in conflict-affected regions. They enhance the skills and knowledge necessary for conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and effective governance. By strengthening local capacities, they contribute to sustainable peace and the prevention of large-scale wars.

The UN and affiliated NGOs recognize that preventing conflicts before they escalate into large-scale wars is crucial. They emphasize early peacebuilding efforts, which involve addressing the underlying causes of conflicts, promoting dialogue, and fostering reconciliation. By working with local communities and stakeholders, they aim to build trust, resilience, and sustainable peace at an early stage.

The UN and affiliated NGOs prioritize the inclusion of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. They promote the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which recognizes the vital role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. By empowering women and ensuring their meaningful participation, the UN and NGOs contribute to more comprehensive and effective approaches to preventing large-scale wars. Recognizing the potential of young people as agents of peace, the UN and affiliated NGOs actively involve youth in conflict prevention initiatives.

They provide platforms for young voices to be heard, facilitate youth-led peacebuilding projects, and promote youth participation in decision-making processes. By engaging youth, who often comprise a significant portion of populations affected by conflicts, they address the root causes and dynamics that can lead to large-scale wars.

The UN and affiliated NGOs work towards the strengthening of international law and accountability mechanisms to prevent large-scale wars. They advocate for the adherence to international humanitarian law, human rights standards, and the prosecution of war crimes. By promoting accountability and justice, they aim to deter potential perpetrators and reduce the likelihood of conflicts escalating into widespread violence.

The UN serves as a platform for multilateral diplomacy, where governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders can engage in dialogue and negotiation. Through diplomatic efforts, the UN and affiliated NGOs facilitate cooperation, trust-building, and the resolution of disputes. By promoting collaborative approaches, they seek to prevent conflicts from escalating into large-scale wars and foster a culture of peaceful resolution.

When conflicts arise, the UN and affiliated NGOs play a crucial role in providing early response and crisis management. They deploy humanitarian aid, establish safe zones for displaced populations, and

facilitate access to essential services such as healthcare and education. By addressing immediate needs and mitigating the impact of conflicts, they aim to prevent further escalation and create conditions for peaceful resolution.

The UN and affiliated NGOs actively engage with regional organizations and promote regional cooperation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. They support regional initiatives, facilitate dialogue between neighboring countries, and assist in the resolution of regional disputes. By fostering collaboration at the regional level, they contribute to stability and reduce the risk of large-scale wars that can transcend national boundaries.

They utilize advanced analytics, geospatial mapping, and early warning systems to identify patterns, predict potential conflicts, and target interventions effectively. By harnessing the power of data and technology, they can better understand the dynamics of conflicts and take proactive measures to prevent large-scale wars.

In the aftermath of large-scale wars, the UN and affiliated NGOs play a crucial role in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. They support efforts to rebuild infrastructure, restore governance structures, promote reconciliation, and foster sustainable development. By addressing the root causes of conflicts and creating conditions for lasting peace, they contribute to preventing future large-scale wars.

By mobilizing public opinion and political will, they create pressure for governments and stakeholders to prioritize conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The UN and affiliated NGOs play critical roles in identifying and preventing large-scale wars. Through conflict monitoring, mediation, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, human rights advocacy, disarmament efforts, sustainable development initiatives, public awareness, and capacity building, they contribute to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the pursuit of a more peaceful and secure world.